

REMARKS

This paper is submitted within the one-month period for response in reply to a Restriction Requirement dated January 10, 2006 in which the Examiner has required under 35 U.S.C. §121 that the Applicant make an election between the following two groups of claims: Group I, Claims 1-12 and 20, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 606, subclass 153; and Group II, Claims 13-19, drawn to method of making, classified in class 606, subclass 123.

The Examiner noted that the inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons: Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case (2) the product can be made by another process. For example, the product may be made by extrusion, and does not require that the product be formed out of sheet metal. In addition (1) the process as claimed may be used to make another product such as a rivet.

In accordance with 17 CFR 1.143, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-12 and 20 drawn to an apparatus. In further response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicant has amended the sole independent claim of Group II to now depend from independent claim 1 of Group I to obviate the restriction against claims 13-19. Applicant has also amended claims 1 to correct grammar and amended claims 14-19 to correct dependency of each from claim 14 to claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests examination of all pending claims 1-20 in light of these amendments. Applicant further respectfully asserts that all amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not introduce new matter.



Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 24th day of January, 2006.

Elizabeth A. Middleton